

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR/B:TEMACKLIN:JANET

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S/S:SRGAMMON

ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138042

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TD

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS

REF: SECTO 19

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SIGNED LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS. ORIGINAL SIGNED IN BRUSSELS; WILL BE POUCHED TO EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN. IN VIEW OF SUBSTANCE, TEXT OF LETTER SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO HIM ASAP WITH EXPLANATION THAT SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL BE TRANSMITTED WHEN RECEIVED.

2. (BEGIN TEXT) DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: I REGRET THAT I HAVE NOT HAD AN EARLIER OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND IN DETAIL TO THE MATTER RAISED IN YOUR LETTERS OF APRIL 29 AND MAY 18. AS YOU ARE AWARE MOST OF MY TIME RECENTLY HAS BEEN SPENT AWAY FROM MY DESK. I AM PLEASED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A SERIES OF WASHINGTON MEETINGS FOR ERROL MAHABIR, YOUR MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. THIS DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES WAS USEFUL TO US, AND I WAS GLAD TO LEARN FROM YOUR LETTER OF MAY 18 THAT YOU ARE OF A SIMILAR VIEW.

3. I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS OVER BWIA. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES IS EQUALLY INTERESTED IN STRONG, VIABLE AIRLINES, WHETHER THEY BE OUR OWN OR

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OTHERS. CERTAINLY, BWIA HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN

THE CARIBBEAN AND HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE

REGION. IT WOULD SEEM THAT ITS FUTURE WILL BE DEPENDENT IN LARGE PART ON THE ABILITY OF THE CARICOM COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE THROUGH A COMMON AIRLINE. AS WE TOLD MINISTER MAHABIR, WE WOULD WELCOME AN INITIATIVE FROM THESE COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE, AS AN INTERESTED PARTY, IN THIS DIALOGUE AT AN EARLY DATE.

4. AS FOR YOUR CONCERN OVER CERTAIN PROPOSALS CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE OUR AVIATION AUTHORITIES, THERE IS TIME, AS YOU NOTE IN YOUR LETTER OF MAY 18, TO STUDY THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THESE PROPOSED ACTIONS ON BWIA AND WE WILL BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOUR AUTHORITIES AS THESE SITUATIONS PROGRESS.

5. THERE IS ALSO THE MATTER OF US AIRLINES APPLICATIONS, NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY YOUR AUTHORITIES, TO INCREASE THEIR SERVICES TO TRINIDAD. WE FEEL THESE APPLICATIONS ARE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE EXISTING AVIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT YOU PERSONALLY MIGHT TAKE AN INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THIS MATTER MAY SOON BE DECED.

6. WHILE I SHOULD NOT MINIMIZE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH MAY LIE AHEAD FOR BOTH SIDES IN SEEKING A EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM, I AM CERTAIN THAT WE CAN BEST REACH SUCH A SOLUTION BY CLOSE AND CONTINUED CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS. I HAVE ASKED MY PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ADVISERS TO APPROACH THE MATTER IN THIS SPIRIT, AS I AM SURE YOU HAVE INSTRUCTED YOURS. I APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS AND LOOK FOREWORD TO THE RAPID AND SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF THIS EFFORT. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. (END TEXT). SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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